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WHAT BETTER WAY TO REDIRECT THE GOSSIP CYCLE? PAGE 13

metro

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Wednesday, July 22, 2015 www.metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

Building collapse worker guilty

Philadelphia. Sean Benschop, the backhoe operator who knocked down the wall that crushed the Salvation Army at 22nd and Market streets on June 5, 2013, pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter on Tuesday and could face 10-20 years. General contractor Griffin Campbell still faces six murder charges for the tragedy. Six people died and 12 were injured in the collapse that shook the city. PAGE 07

EXCLUSIVE

Shot for who he is

PAGE 02

Kevyn Mines, 31, was shot Saturday while working at an adult bookstore in the Gayborhood. He believes it was a hate crime. / ERNEST OWENS

Young man slain on first payday honored

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Greg joins Amy in the Poehler comedy biz

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Union's homegrown Pfeffer grows up

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1 NEWS

Top 3

The best of Metro.us

1 'Work begins in Village on Bea Arthur Residence for LGBT homeless youth'

2 'Is web developer the best career choice ever?'

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On the go

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Adult store employee: Shooting was a 'hate crime'

Intent. Police are probing an anti-gay motive in the shooting at Danny's Midnight Confessions in the Gayborhood.

Mines shows the bullet hole in his back. The bullet is permanently lodged in his pelvis, he said. To the left, surveillance cameras inside Danny's Midnight Confessions caught the intruder enter the store, fire at Mines and flee. / ERNEST OWENS

Quoted

"The doctors at Jefferson said that if the bullet would have moved more on the left or right side, I would be paralyzed right now."
Mines

The clerk who was shot in the back after struggling with an intruder last weekend in a Center City adult bookstore said Tuesday that he is the victim of a "hate crime" and the shop was targeted because it caters to a gay clientele.

"He said he's 'not with that gay s—' and then walked out at first," Kevyn Mines, 31, said of when he first encountered an intruder while working the late-night cashier's shift at Danny's Midnight Confessions.

"It was a little after 3 a.m. last Saturday night before he came back in and asked for 'straight porn' when he shot me in the back."

Mines, an openly gay North Philadelphian who said his job at the premier adult novelty store located in The Gayborhood was "fun work," claimed that it was not a robbery on July 18 and that the man police described as "black, between 5-foot-7 and 5-foot-9, with a thin build" did not request any cash at the site.

Under investigation

"Based on the information currently provided, it looks like it was motivated by a hate crime," said Leeloni Palmiero, Philadelphia Police Department's public information officer. "The negative remark about the victim's sexual orientation is a strong indication."

- Prosecutors said it's too early to make a determination about charges. "Currently, we are waiting for the Police Department to give us more information to see if this could, in fact, be a hate crime," said Philly DA's office spokesman Cameron Kline.

"I had a co-worker who was nearby counting money. … It was clear after the homophobic slur that he wasn't looking for cash," Mines said.

"When you walk in a store and make it known that you want 'straight' things vs. 'gay' things, then it's clear you are focused on sexual orientation."

Mines is currently on a doctor-ordered six-week bed rest at his residence in North Philadelphia.

He was initially shot in the back while in the struggle with the suspect.

The bullet entered his back, went through the bottom of his spine and into his pelvic bone, where it is permanently lodged, he said.

"The doctors at Jefferson said that if the bullet would have moved more on the left or right side, I would be paralyzed right now," Mines said.

He currently has sharp pain in his lower body in addition to trouble walking.

Currently Mines, who is also a Penn employee who is recruiting people for HIV clinical studies, is receiving worker's compensation from both his employers, as well as moral support, he said.

A manager at Danny's had no comment or statement regarding the case.

However, local media have framed the incident as a robbery. NBC 10 reported the crime as "an apparent attempted robbery."

Mines "adamantly disagrees," he said.

"It frustrates me that no one has tried to call it what it was — a hate crime," Mines said.

"The news keeps trying to act like it was an armed robbery when no money was attempted to be stolen at gunpoint," he said.

Mines is working on recovering and "blessed to be alive given all the recent shootings in Philly this summer."

"I'm grateful to be still here. … I just want justice to prevail right now," Mines said.

ERNEST OWENS
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letters@metro.us

Pope Francis visit

Papal Pass sales delayed one week

The Papal Pass required to travel on the Regional Rail during the weekend of Pope Francis' visit to Philadelphia won't be available this week.

On Monday, the Papal Pass website crashed after 54,000 customers visited the site one minute after it went live at 9 a.m., SEPTA said.

"We have been working with IT consultants over the last two days and are still considering the best option to address the high interest among customers interested in purchasing the pass and the heavy volume on the e-commerce site," said spokesman Andrew Busch in a statement Tuesday.

The Papal Passes, for Regional Rail travel only, cost $10 each. Riders must choose their departure time and destination station when buying the passes.

There are 175,000 passes available per day for Pope Francis' visit to Philadelphia on Sept. 26-27, for a total of 350,000 passes.

SEPTA said it will announce the new sale date "as soon as it is available."

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North Philly

Man charged in stray bullet shooting of teenager

The man who accidentally shot a teenager in the neck Sunday night, wounding him, has been charged with aggravated assault for the shooting, police said.

Duval Nelson, 38, of the 6100 block of Warnock Street, was allegedly involved in an argument when the shooting occurred around 8:20 p.m. on Sunday.

Witnesses saw Nelson arguing inside a rec center park at Morton and Duval streets with another man who punched him in the face, according to police.

Nelson allegedly drew a black handgun from his waistband and fired twice at the other male, who fled and was not hit. The bullets struck a 16-year-old boy in the park in the neck, who ran to his home and collapsed, police said.

"The victim does not appear to be involved in the dispute," police said.

The victim was transported to Einstein Medical Center, located a block away, and was listed in critical condition.

Nelson reportedly left the scene in his vehicle, drove to a 35th District police station and turned himself in. SAM NEWHOUSE

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Young man killed on his first payday remembered

Tragedy. Darius Epps got a job at the Water Department and wanted to use his first paycheck to help his grandmother.

Darius Epps / PROVIDED

A man killed Friday night had just gotten his first real paycheck, friends said, and was planning on giving some of the money to his grandmother who had raised him since he was a boy.

Darius Epps, 23, was found dead Friday night of a gunshot wound to the chest at 53rd and Pentridge. Police have not made an arrest in the case.

Epps was remembered at City Hall during remarks by Mayor Nutter on Tuesday.

"His grandmother was his focus," said Marquine Gainey, 22, Epps' friend whom he met while serving in PowerCorpsPHL, an AmeriCorps program that focuses on environmental stewardship in Philadelphia.

That service led to a job at the Philadelphia Water Department, where Epps worked as a seasonal maintenance worker.

"He was going to give a portion of his check to his grandmom," said Pat Edouard, 33, a supervisor at PowerCorpsPHL. "He just wanted to show her his gratitude."

Epps was raised by his grandmother since he was 8 years old, Edouard said, and he admired her for all she had done for him.

PowerCorpsPHL is designed to help Philadelphia youths who have hit stumbling blocks in their paths to a good job. Some have had legal problems while others might have grown up in foster care or experienced homelessness.

Epps was one of its stars. Friends remembered him as a peacemaker within the group.

When a delegation from Camden came to explore setting up the program there, he was one of the people they met.

"He was an awesome young man who was on the path to doing the right thing," said Toni Lemons, program director of PowerCorpsPHL.

For Gainey, he was just a friend.

"I just miss him," Gainey said. "He didn't deserve that."

DAN KELLEY
@MetroPhilly
dan.kelley@metro.us

Quoted

"I am most proud of my grandmother. I look up to her, first of all because she raised me. Everything she ever had, she has worked hard for."

Epps' answer to "What are you most proud of?" on his PowerCorpsPHL profile.

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Christmas in July. Local kids get bikes

It was Christmas in July at the Kimmel Center on Tuesday as the Philly POPS donated 100 bicycles and helmets to children of police officers, firefighters and military service members during a holiday-themed event. Fire Commissioner Derrick Sawyer, bottom right, jokes with a child as he sits on his bike. The POPS will also donate 2,000 tickets to military, fire and police personnel for a December concert during their Christmas Spectacular.

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Tragedy. Equipment operator in building collapse pleads guilty

The backhoe operator involved in a June 2013 deadly building collapse pleaded guilty Tuesday to six counts of involuntary manslaughter.

Sean Benschop, 44, faces up to 94 years in prison — though prosecutors have pledged not to seek more than 10 to 20 in a case that raised serious questions about the city's oversight of demolition contractors.

The collapse occurred as Benschop was tearing down a four-story building that formerly housed a Hoagie City restaurant at 22nd and Market streets with his heavy excavator.

That four-story building fell on top of a neighboring one-story Salvation Army store, trapping 13 people and killing Juanita Harmon, Roseline Conteh, Mary Simpson, Kimberly Finnegan, Ann Bryan and Borbor Davis.

Prosecutors contend that the only proper way to tear the building down was by hand and that using heavy equipment was improper.

Sean Benschop / PPD

Benschop's lawyer, Bill Davis, said his client was ready to take responsibility for his role in the tragedy.

"He should have walked away from the job site, and he didn't," Davis said.

Sentencing is scheduled for October 23.

Benschop's co-defendant, contractor Griffin T. Campbell, also faces six counts of involuntary manslaughter and 12 counts of recklessly endangering another person. His trial is set for September.

Campbell's lawyer, William Hobson, slammed prosecutors for failing to note that Benschop was high on marijuana and Percocets at the time of the collapse.

"We are ready for trial," Hobson said.

Nancy Winkler and Jay Bryan, the parents of collapse fatality Ann Bryan, issued a statement saying that many people involved in the accident chose to ignore the looming danger of the unsafe demolition.

"We continue to wait for all those responsible to break their silence and answer questions about their outrageous conduct leading up to the fatal building collapse," the statement said.

DAN KELLEY

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NASA releases first picture of Earth in 43 years and it's EPIC

Photo. NASA released a color image of Earth taken on the Deep Space Climate Observatory satellite.

NASA released the first picture of the Earth in 43 years on Monday.

A color image of Earth was taken by the Earth Polychromatic Imaging Camera (EPIC) on the Deep Space Climate Observatory (DSCOVR) satellite.

The picture was taken on July 6 and features North and Central America. Once the instrument starts collecting regular data, EPIC will provide a daily series of Earth images that for the first time in history will allow researchers to be able to study the daily variations of the globe.

The first pictures of Earth were taken in 1947 from 100 miles in space.

Astrophysicist, cosmologist, author, science communicator and Frederick P. Rose Director of the Hayden Planetarium Dr. Neil DeGrasse Tyson took to Facebook "at the request of the White House" to reflect on the image.

The objective of the DSCOVR satellite is "to maintain the nation's real-time solar wind monitoring capabilities, which are critical to the accuracy and lead time of space weather alerts and forecasts from NOAA." The pictures delivered to NASA from the satellite will help NASA do just that.

MEGAN FU

Facebook

Dr. Neil DeGrasse wrote:

- Now we have at our disposal, not simply a photograph of our home to reflect upon, but continual data of our rotating planet, captured 13 times per day, by the robotic Deep Space Climate Observatory, a specially designed space camera & telescope, launched and positioned a million miles from Earth.
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Photo of Earth taken by the Earth Polychromatic Imaging Camera. / NASA

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Latecomer. Kasich touts experience as he joins crowded Republican field

Republican John Kasich promised to use his decades of political experience in Washington and the U.S. heartland to create jobs and tighten government spending as he made a relatively late entry to the 2016 race for the White House on Tuesday.

Kasich, the popular governor of Ohio and a former leading U.S. congressman, is likely to be the last prominent Republican to enter the field, which is now up to 16 candidates.

His emphasis on long government service runs counter to other candidates, such as Jeb Bush, who are positioning themselves as outsiders.

Speaking at Ohio State University, Kasich offered fiscal discipline, a stronger military and a compassionate conservative vision for the poor if he overcomes long odds to win the Republican nomination and then the November 2016 election.

Ohio Governor John Kasich / GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"I believe I do have the skills and I have the experience and the testing which shapes you and prepares you for the most important job in the world."

Kasich, who mounted a short-lived run for the nomination in the 2000 race, told supporters.

Many Republican candidates are keen to avoid being seen as professional politicians but two-time governor Kasich, 63, listed his long time in government, including 18 years in the U.S. House of Representatives, as evidence he can run the country.

A moderate Republican with a reputation for having a short temper, he needs to make a mark quickly to qualify for the party's first debate on Aug. 6.

Kasich ranks 14th out of 16 Republican candidates in a Reuters/Ipsos online poll, and he is in 12th place in the RealClearPolitics average of polls. REUTERS

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Dr. Okon received his medical degree from Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. He then completed his residency in Family Medicine at Christiana Care and went on to do a fellowship in Sports Medicine at Thomas Jefferson University.

Dr. Okon will see patients at Rothman Institute's Northeast office across from Nazareth Hospital. To schedule an appointment call 800-321-9999.

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Five things you

1 Citibank ordered to pay $770 million over credit card practices

Citigroup Inc.'s consumer bank has been ordered to pay $700 million in relief to borrowers for illegal credit card practices, the U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau said.

The bank will also pay civil penalties of $35 million each to the consumer finance watchdog and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency.

The $770 million total payout is about 1 percent of Citi's estimated revenue for 2015, according to Thomson Reuters StarMine.

"Citi is fully reserved to pay costs associated with the agreements," the bank said in a statement on Tuesday.

The CFPB said that about 7 million customer accounts were affected by Citibank's "deceptive marketing" practices, which included misrepresenting costs and fees and charging customers for services they did not receive.

The CFPB, set up under the 2010 Dodd-Frank Act aimed at reforming Wall Street practices, said a Citibank unit also "deceptively" charged nearly 1.8 million consumer accounts often unnecessary same-day payment fees while collecting payments.

Citibank misrepresented the charge of $14.95 per account as a "processing" fee and did not explain that the fee was merely to make a faster payment, the CFPB said. REUTERS

2 Texas jail death to be probed closely

The death of an Illinois woman found hanged in her Texas jail cell in what local authorities said was a suicide will be investigated as thoroughly as a murder, the local district attorney said on Monday.

Sandra Bland, 28, was found dead on July 13, three days after she was arrested for assaulting an officer during a traffic stop in Waller County, about 50 miles west of Houston, authorities have said.

The Waller County Sheriff's Office said Bland took her own life and the death was ruled a suicide by the Harris County Medical Examiner's Office. But her family and friends have publicly questioned the official account. REUTERS

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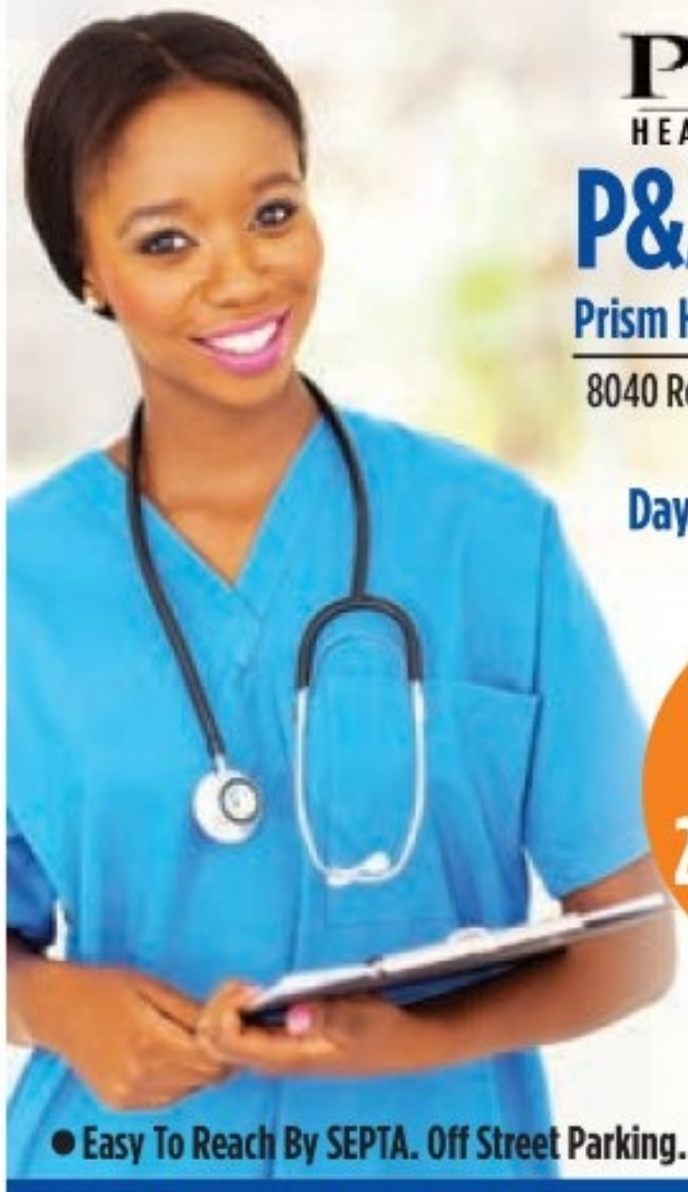

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need to know

Toshiba CEO quits over accounting scandal

Toshiba Corp.'s chief executive Hisao Tanaka and a string of several other senior officials resigned on Tuesday for their roles in the accounting scandal.

Tanaka will be temporarily replaced by Chairman Masashi Muromachi after an independent inquiry found the CEO had been aware that the company had inflated its profits by $1.2 billion over a period of several years.

"I see this as the most damaging event for our brand in the company's 140-year history," Tanaka told a news conference. **REUTERS**

Two more Democratic senators join Puerto Rico bankruptcy push

Another two Democratic senators have agreed to co-sponsor a bill that would allow Puerto Rico's municipalities to use federal bankruptcy laws, the U.S. territory's representative in Congress Pedro Pierluisi said in a statement.

Senate judiciary committee chairman Patrick Leahy and Mark Warner, who sits on the Senate's banking committee as well as the finance committee, will join 12 other Democratic senators currently sponsoring the bill. **REUTERS**

Obama says Veterans Affairs agency still needs improving

A little more than a year after the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' secretary stepped down over reports the agency was offering inadequate health care, President Barack Obama told veterans on Tuesday his administration had more work to do for them.

"I want you to know I'm still not satisfied. Bob's still not satisfied. We're not going to let up," Obama said, referring to the agency's current secretary Robert McDonald at the 116th annual conference of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Pittsburgh. **REUTERS**

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Robert Kiyosaki will not attend this event.

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5 Ways millennials can cut costs

Budgeting. If rent, student loans and, you know, feeding yourself has you strapped for cash, here's what you can do to save money.

Have more to put in your piggy bank with these expert tips. / ISTOCK

Millennials put away an average of 8 percent of their salary for retirement, according to investment firm T. Rowe Price's Retirement Saving & Spending Study, which looked at 1,505 millennials with 401(k)s. That's a lot less than the minimum 15 percent that most experts recommend. So what can millennials do to save more? Here are five tips.

Cut costs

Before you sign a lease or buy a car, think about cheaper options. Housing and transportation are the two biggest costs for most people and significant commitments of your future income, says Stuart Ritter, senior financial planning analyst at T. Rowe Price. A small change can give you a lot of financial freedom.

"There's a big difference between buying an expensive car, riding a bike or sharing a ride," says Ritter.

Make a budget

Track your spending for at least a month. That is the first step for exercising restraint. Otherwise, your spending can sneak up on you. A $3 Starbucks coffee a day adds up.

Categorize your expenses as "needs" and "wants," and distinguish between the two, says Mark Kantrowitz, senior vice president & publisher at Edvisors.com, a site that provides financial advice for students and families.

"Cable TV is not a need, it's a luxury," he says.

If you think it's overwhelming to make a budget for all your expenses, pick a couple of categories and track them, says Ritter. Apps like Mint, a unit of Intuit, and LevelMoney help you track and analyze your spending habits.

Adjustments

"When people start making a bigger salary, their lifestyle often inflates and suddenly they are living paycheck to paycheck," says Jason Vitug, founder and chief executive of Phroogal, a company that provides financial advice for millennials. Phone bills, Netflix and magazine subscriptions are some of the expenses you can reduce, he says.

Save while paying off loans

Student loan debt prevents some millennials from saving, according to T. Rowe Price's study. But it's important to prioritize both saving and paying off loans. First, build an emergency fund of three to six months of salary. Then prioritize paying off your loans, said Kantrowitz. Start by paying off the loan with the highest interest rate.

Make it automatic

While you are working, you should save a fifth of your salary so that you have money for the last fifth of your life, Kantrowitz advises. Tell your employer how much you want to save and have the money automatically taken out of your paycheck.

That will help you get used to having less money for spending. Make sure you maximize your employer match, which can be up to 6 percent. "That's free money," says Kantrowitz. REUTERS

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1

Blake Shelton really taking to divorced life

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

The divorce announcement from Blake Shelton and Miranda Lambert was certainly a surprise — unless you work on "The Voice," apparently. "Blake is in a much better mood this season than he was when he was married to Miranda. Everyone on the show knew that it was just a matter of time before him and Miranda were done," a source tells Radar Online. "Towards the end of last season, when someone would ask how his wife was, he would joke around and say something sarcastic along the lines of, 'How should I know?' But Blake is a true professional and never brought his personal problems into work." Um, guys? Jokingly saying you have no idea how your wife is doing is kind of bringing your personal problems to work. Just saying.

2

The Affleck kids got a divorce puppy

The latest wrinkle in the Ben Affleck-Jennifer Garner breakup appears to be small, furry and utterly adorable. Some eager paparazzi spotted Affleck in Georgia this week — where Garner is filming, their three kids along for the trip — cradling the gosh darn cutest golden retriever puppy you ever did see. And Garner herself was spotted over the weekend taking their youngest to Party City to pick up some balloons with paw prints on them. This can only mean one thing: It's a divorce puppy, weaponized cuteness meant to ease the impact on the kids of the big change. According to Us Weekly, the puppy was actually adopted by the family in May, but that still lines up, timing-wise. Also, look at the puppy! So fluffy, so cuddly. So uncomfortable in Affleck's arms.

JAXN LYNX/AKM-GSI

THE WORD

Ned Ehrbar takes on the world of gossip.

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3

Judd Apatow does a mean Bill Cosby

Judd Apatow delivered a spot-on Bill Cosby impression on "The Tonight Show." Apatow was paddling his way through a so-so set before landing on a pretty searing Cosby bit. "My wife said to me, 'What is this in the paper about the raping and the drugging and the women,'" Apatow said with a well-practiced impression. "And I said, 'Do you like your life? Do you like the house and the jet? Well, then, have a cappuccino and shut the floink up.'"

Apatow has been on a bit of a "crusade" against Cosby and was recently quoted at a movie premiere crediting himself with keeping the Cosby-rape conversation alive. A noble endeavor, to be sure.

4

Charlize Theron invited Obama to a strip club

Do you worry about totally embarrassing yourself whenever you meet someone famous and important? Charlize Theron is right there with you. Jimmy Kimmel got her to recount a rather awkward run-in with Barack Obama from a previous visit. "I have this thing that happens when I get nervous where I get so nervous that I will say something really inappropriate. It's like Tourette's in a weird way. It's like verbal diarrhea," she explains. "[Obama] felt like he was reaching a [new] demographic" being on Kimmel's show. "There was this pause, and I didn't know what to say and all I could come up with was, 'Well, if you're looking for a different demographic I can take you to a strip club.' It's terrible. Terrible, terrible. Michelle Obama is going to kill me."

5

CULTURE

Twitter feed

Today, Marlon Wayans is battling cravings, Chloe Grace Moretz is jonesing, Eva Longoria has a mystery benefactor, Taye Diggs is pleased and Mindy Kaling is having a rough night.

@MarlonWayans: Life is so unfair when you're on a cleanse

@ChloeGMoretz: I want hockey season to be back .

@Evalongoria: Thank you to whoever paid my lunch at #Manta's in #Sydney! So kind of u, wish I could have said thank u in person!

@TayeDiggs: Great stuff.

@mindykaling: It's late and I'm quoting Muhammad Ali

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Everybody dance now

Ryan Tuerk, left, and Sophie Malin will perform the dance "Analemma" by Evalina Carbonell. / BILL HEBERT

Festival. Roni Koresh created Come Together because dance gets lonely.

The inaugural Come Together Dance Festival in 2013 gathered 27 Philadelphia-area dance companies for a weekend of workshops and performances celebrating the depth and diversity of the city's dance scene. Last year the number was trimmed slightly to 24, and co-founder Roni Koresh decided that he would cut the number even further for year three, aiming for a more manageable 20. The final count for this year's festival wound up being 33 companies, reaching beyond Philly to companies from New Jersey, New York and Seattle.

"I have a difficulty saying no," Koresh explains with a resigned laugh. "When you see such a vast amount of creativity, you figure out how to make it happen."

That's what Koresh has been doing for nearly a quarter of a century, ever since founding the Koresh Dance Company in 1991. The Israeli-born choreographer understands the struggles and challenges faced by both emerging and established dance companies, and imagined the Come Together Dance Festival as a way to create com-

Quoted

"The initial reasoning behind the festival was to create an audience that is versatile and aware of the treasures that Philadelphia holds. Philadelphia is a destination city with the Barnes and the Art Museum — and the cheesesteak. But it would be nice if it was also known for its cultural depth." Koresh

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Dancer Tunai Jones is participating in the festival. / JULIANNE HARRIS

munity and increase audiences and attention.

"One of the things that is difficult in this business is that sometimes you feel all alone," Koresh says. "You struggle every day, raising money, trying to get the art form to a level where it's respected, and sometimes it gets very lonely. So when you see that there are so many people doing it, loving it, invested in it, it helps the spirit. In numbers, we can prevail."

Beyond Philly

10 Hairy Legs

The festival is made up of five programs at the Koresh Dance Company's home base, the Suzanne Roberts Theatre. The roster includes local favorites such as Philadanco!, Brian Sanders' JUNK, Rennie Harris PureMovement and the Kulu Mele African Dance & Drum Ensemble.

New Jersey's 10 Hairy Legs, NYC's Ballet Inc. and Seattle's Spectrum Dance Theatre will bring an outside perspective to the event. While he insists that the festival will remain primarily focused on Philadelphia dance, Koresh hopes that the inclusion of companies from other cities will help spread word of the festival and the scene while giving local dancers fresh inspiration.

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Greg Poehler is living up to the family name

Interview. The actor talks about dream guests and advice from the other comedic Poehler for Season 2 of "Welcome to Sweden."

"Welcome to Sweden" airs Sundays at 8 p.m. on NBC. / ALEXANDRA ARISTARKHOVA/TV4 AB

Greg Poehler may have a famous last name, but that doesn't mean he's not working hard to claim it as his own. Though big sister Amy just wrapped up the run of her own show, the younger Poehler is hard at work on the second season of "Welcome to Sweden," the sitcom loosely based on his own life as an American expat living in Sweden. The series traffics in a wry sense of humor, poking fun at the oddness of Swedish culture without being insulting, and more often than not making it clear that Poehler's Bruce is the odd one out. We talked to him about the new season and all his big casting moves.

What can we expect coming up in Season 2?
I finally know what I'm doing, so that's a huge plus, right? I think, in general, Season 2s are where shows find their footing and find their rhythm and figure out what they want to be.

You did some stand-up comedy before this but not any acting. How was the transition?
It's always something that I thought I could do and it helps that I'm basically playing a version of myself on screen. I don't feel like I'm acting too much, to be honest. The key is to not act. [Laughs] No, my sister gave me some advice before Season 1, as a new actor, which is to make sure you don't overact. People have the tendency to want to overdo it and be big in the moment if they don't have much experience.

Are the cultural differences that play out in the show inspired by real life events?
Americans, when they're listening to someone talk, they remain silent. Swedes have these rotation of sounds that they make when you're talking. The first time you hear it, you have no idea what's going on. The first time my wife did it, I thought it was some sort of emergency, and it was just her mom telling her to pick up some milk.

The show has a lot of fun cameos. How do you decide who will be a good fit on the show?
This year we have Jack Black, Paul Simon, Jason Priestley, Neve Campbell, and then Amy and Aubrey [Plaza] come back, of course. It's tough on the guest stars. They have to be someone that is famous in both Sweden and the U.S. And that's a shorter list than you'd think. It tends to have to be gigantic stars like Will Ferrell, Jack Black, Gene Simmons and Paul Simon.

Do you have any dream guest stars?
We're almost running out of people that are famous in both places. We're down to, like, President Obama, Leonardo DiCaprio and maybe Bjorn Borg. We've been trying to get Bjorn Borg for two seasons, so that's the biggest get. If we can manage to corral him, then we've climbed the highest Swedish mountain.

GETTY IMAGES

LISA WEIDENFELD
@LisaWeidenfeld
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Famous sibs

Advice from the experts

Did you end up asking Amy for a lot of advice?
She's trusted me to make the show that I wanted to make, which is huge — especially for someone that has had no experience. It's kind of an early stamp of approval. I've spent so much time with her around the business. We lived together when she started on "SNL" in New York. I've kind of been on the outskirts of it for so long that I feel like I know what the business is and I try not to take it too seriously. I know how ridiculous it is in many respects.

Is she involved much in the creative process or is she mostly hands off in that department?
She's very involved when it comes to scenes that she's in. [Laughs] She somehow pays a lot of attention whenever a scene involves the two of us and I'm under strict orders to give her all the funny lines, which I do as a dutiful younger brother. No, for the most part, she leaves me to do the show that I want and, plus, it's in Sweden, so it's kind of a tough commute for her. She sees all the scripts and makes cuts on the episodes, so she's involved in that.

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B164 - Hernandez, Luis • C002 - Mcdonnell, Patrick • D028 - Santiago, Victor • D034 - Sashir, Alim
E018 - Joyce, Kathleen • E060 - Shubert, Nakia • G018 - Quiles-Roman, Wessie

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A550 - Lawson, Antoinette • A621 - Whiting, Josesino • A728 - Marmolejo, Richard
A825 - Cowell, Nastassia • A845 - Mitchell, Latasha • B1100 - Israel, Donna • B1103 - Israel, Donna
B1415 - Mccormick, William • C2112 - Drabish, Daniel • C2213 - Curtis, Gary • C2317 - Israel, Donna
C2424 - Acevedo, Emma • C2509 - Richardson, Kathleen • C2727 - Wood Iv, Joseph

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What I learned when I stopped getting mad

Mommyhood Musings

YESENIA ALMONTE

Twitter and Instagram: @yeseniaalmonte

Metro's parenting blogger is sharing her parenting triumphs and fails — and taking you along for the ride. Yesenia Almonte is a born and bred New Yorker who lives in Brooklyn with her husband and two sons, Hudson, 3, and Crosby, 10 months.

It's easy to get upset with your kids when they disobey you. Some of the doozies that really do it for me are when my 3-year-old doesn't want to go to bed or eat the dinner I slaved over for him — and, of course, tantrums in public.

Lately, my son doesn't want to go to sleep in his own bed. He wants to stay with my husband and me in the living room and lay next to us until he falls asleep.

Here's the thing: Evenings are my catch-up time. This is when I can peacefully have a conversation with my husband, catch up on my reading or just relax with HGTV. I have been so mad that my kid was stealing my me-time. He, of course, senses my anger, which then makes me feel extra guilty — not at the fact that I get mad at him, but that I stay mad at him.

It's completely natural to get upset with your kids,

These little guys are always getting into something.
/ YESENIA ALMONTE/INSTAGRAM

For exclusive commentary, visit Metro.us/blogs.

but staying mad, I believe, doesn't help the situation and it certainly doesn't teach your kids anything positive about how to deal with their emotions. In a lot of parenting situations, such as sleep training or potty training, it is often the parent — not the child — who allows the situation to get out of hand.

In this instance, it is certainly my fault that my 3-year-old doesn't want to go sleep without me next to him. I'm not saying I won't be one pissed mommy tonight — I probably will be — and I'll acknowledge my anger and simply move on ... until I decide I want to deal with the problem head on.

My child will eventually sleep the entire night in his bed, as he did so often before he decided to momentarily revisit what it's like to sleep next to his mommy. We have to end this, but for now he needs the comfort this provides him, and it may be more important to understand why he needs it, rather than become angry about it.

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BY WULFF & MORGENTHALER

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Aries Family relations will be overly dramatic and upsetting. You are best off focusing on business matters and making more money.

Taurus Love is on the rise. A promising partnership will result from a social gathering or group activity. Get involved in community events.

Gemini Consider the feelings of a loved one when you are using charm to impress an outsider. What you consider harmless fun will have a sobering effect.

Cancer Don't hesitate to make a positive change. There is always room for improvement if you are willing to do the work.

Leo Your stress level will be lessened if you get involved in physical activity or tackle a challenge that takes your mind off your troubles.

Virgo Step into the spotlight and share your knowledge and plans, but be aware of someone who is jealous or feeling left out.

Libra If you have trouble making up your mind, don't commit to anything. It's better to be sure than to make a promise you don't want to keep.

Scorpio Money is headed your way. Don't put yourself in harm's way by associating with unscrupulous or overindulgent individuals.

Sagittarius Dealing with government, bureaucracies or institutions will be frustrating. Concentrate on self-improvement programs instead.

Capricorn Today's emphasis is on financial matters. Keep your money safe. If you can convince others to invest in your ideas, you will come out ahead.

Aquarius Don't act on impulse. An intriguing job prospect will have some unexpected detriments. Be sure you know what you are getting into.

Pisces Don't try to embellish. You will do much better if you stick to the truth. Problems will surface if you give the wrong impression. EUGENIA LAST

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easy

	1				6	2		7
		2		1				
			9	2		1		
6							3	8
8		9	4		3	7		5
5	7							4
		5		7	8			
				9		8		
9		7	3				6	

hard

9		4			7			6
	7	1			2	4		
8			4				1	5
			6					
7		8				3		2
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3	8				5			4
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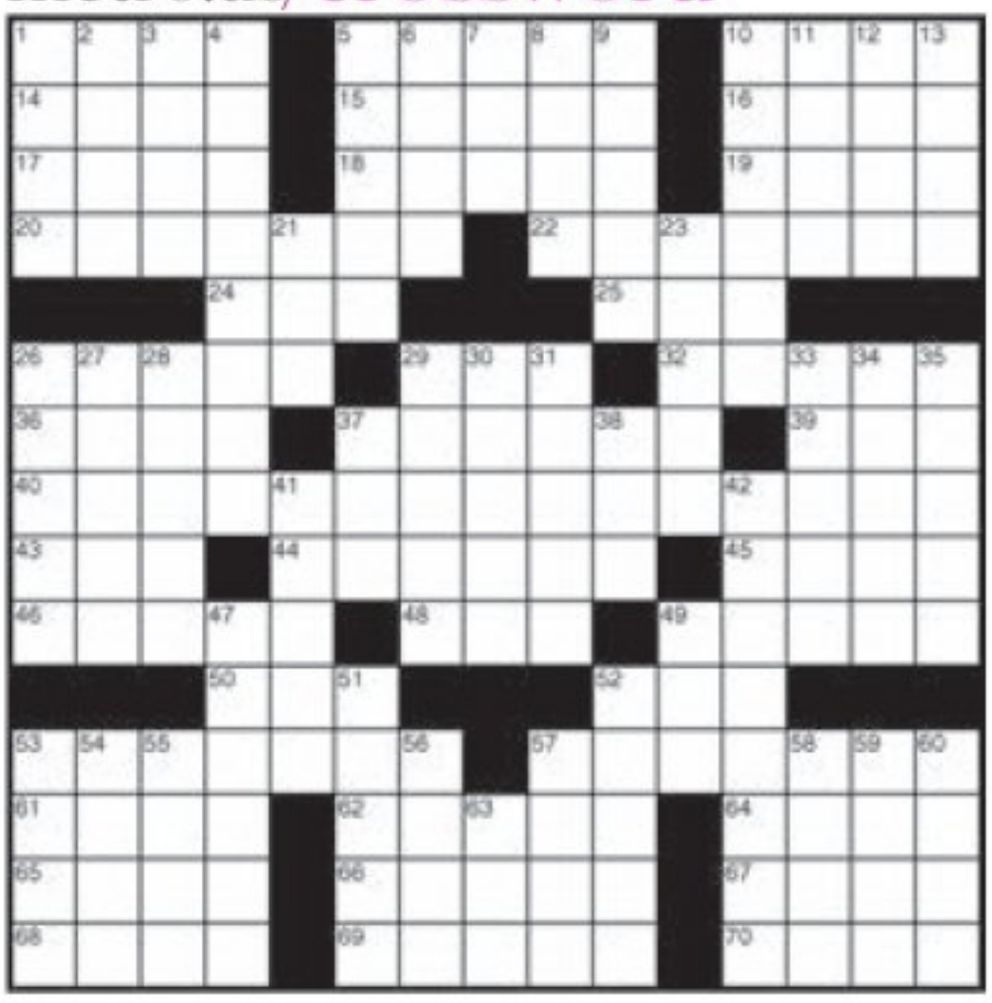

Across
1 Dalai —
5 Sparkle
10 Cougar
14 Touched down
15 Vietnam's capital
16 Crazed captain
17 — be a cold day...
18 Gavel-banger's cry
19 One-and-only
20 Swain's offering
22 Percolated
24 Cambodia' s Lon —
25 Double helix
26 Horse's carriage
29 Med. plan
32 Library fixture
36 In — — (stuck)
37 Puck stopper
39 Make after taxes
40 In suspense (3 wds.)
43 Brown of renown
44 Late-news hour
45 Trifling amount
46 More cunning
48 Deighton or Cariou
49 More confident
50 Messy place
52 Underwater shocker
53 Extirpates (2 wds.)
57 Job opening
61 "Jaws" rival
62 Dog genus
64 Finish-line marker
65 Bulb measure
66 Duplicate
67 Outback mineral
68 Wild plum
69 Facilitated
70 Coarse file

Down
1 Bear's pad
2 Low voice
3 Wire thicknesses
4 On and on (2 wds.)
5 Horror flick extra
6 Piecrust ingredient
7 Midwest st.
8 "The First —"
9 Bushed
10 Philosopher Blaise —
11 Oops! (hyph.)
12 Stag attender
13 Under the covers
21 U2's first album
23 Disturbing emotion
26 Cries loudly
27 Archangel of light
28 Full of nerve
29 Package tour feature
30 Writer — Binchy
31 Bygone
33 Walking — —
34 Davis or Midler
35 Early anesthetic
37 Gas pump qty.
38 King — Saud
41 Lahr and Parks
42 Software work-around
47 Tycoon's home
49 Brut
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No wasted space

Who needs a giant loft? If you're looking for the most central location and don't mind paring down your stuff, Avenir has the "flat" for you.

MADELINE PRESLAND
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

If you're looking for space, Center City isn't your best bet. But even in the most expensive part of town, where you're often paying primarily for location, 300 square feet is tight. Then again, it might be all you need.

"So many times people are paying for square footage of unusable space," says Jessica Scully, head of the Scully Company. The developer, along with Alterra Property Company, just remodeled 42 S. 15th St. into Avenir: 180 apartments ranging from a little over 300 square feet to just over 1,000. Rents start at $1,138.

"The apartments are smart," Scully says, referring to the smaller units at Avenir in particular. "Not just in that they have smart thermostats, but how the space is used — whether there is a sliding door versus an opening door."

Another example is multifunctional furniture. Renters can opt to install a desk that turns into a bed.

The smaller units are being called flats, while the more traditional layouts go up to a two-bedroom.

Avenir also features a communal kitchen and a lounge with a ping-pong table and a movie-screening area, giving the building a college-dorm-for-adults vibe (though much sleeker than any dorm we lived in). There's also a fitness center, indoor bike storage, bike maintenance stations and a doorman.

So what do you do if you invite over your bike-riding friends and need somewhere to plan out your startup after a game of ping-pong? Avenir has set up "think suites" across the hall from the lounge. They're mini-conference rooms with tables, TVs and A/V hookups.

In terms of who will be using them, Scully fulfills her marketing role by emphasizing there is something for everyone in this new building — although she does mention one group who might be eyeing the Avenir: "We definitely know there are a lot of medical students in town."

Location, location, location

Avenir is at 15th and Chestnut in the heart of Center City, surrounded by bars, restaurants, businesses, gyms, public transportation — pretty much everything city life has to offer. Dilworth Park, next to City Hall, is just up the street, Rittenhouse Square is a few blocks away and, most importantly, the brand new Cheesecake Factory is a one-minute walk. As Scully puts it, "The whole city is a playground right out the front door."

Even the lobby has hang-out space. MADELINE PRESLAND

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Waterproof picnic blankets are a key. *SewnNatural waterproof organic picnic blanket, $130-$180, Etsy.com*

Transport — and serve — that salad in style. *Kate Spade New York bowls with lid, $50 for a set of 3, Macys.com*

Picnic ready

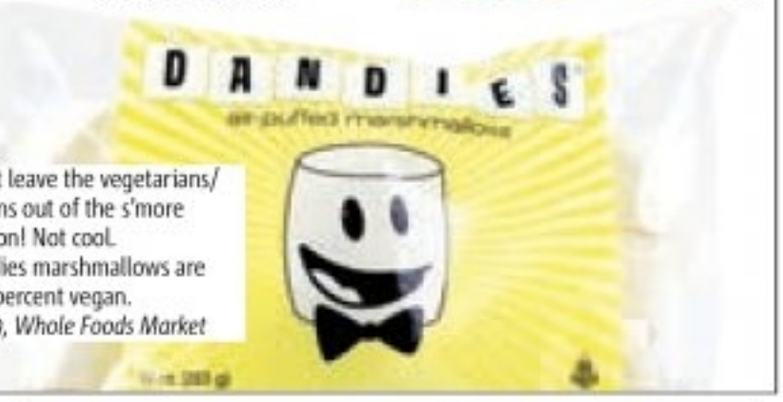
The essentials you need for your outdoor hang.

Class up your picnic by putting the key snack (cheese!) on a worthy pedestal. *H&M wooden cutting board, $17.99, HM.com*

Pretty drinks for those Instagram close-ups. *Sky Valley Foods Organic Sparkling Soda, $6.99, Whole Foods Market*

There's nothing more annoying than being in the middle of a field or rooftop and realizing you forgot the bottle opener. *Anthropology Gilded Pretzel bottle opener, $10, Anthropologie.com*

Keep that rosé on ice! *Sunny Life chevron beach cooler, $40, ShopTerrain.com*



Don't leave the vegetarians/vegans out of the s'more session! Not cool. Dandies marshmallows are 100-percent vegan. *$5.29, Whole Foods Market*

TINA CHADHA
@TinaatMetro
tina.chadha@metro.us

We're midway through summer — how did that happen?! If you haven't yet enjoyed a picnic, or three, clear your weekend schedule. Here are our picks for a day lounging under the sun.

Decorate

Minted limited edition print by Cass Loh

Start your gallery wall

Trendy Brooklyn-based homeware chain West Elm has plucked from a pool of works by independent designers for its new line of framed wall prints, reaffirming that there is a community-minded sensibility behind all those woven baskets, brass light fixtures and pricey reclaimed wood coffee tables.

From delicate watercolor prints to striking black and white photography, each piece feels special, with a distinct point of view, like something you might find at a neighborhood flea market.

For the collection, the retailer partnered with Minted, the San Francisco-based design marketplace for independent artists, on an "art challenge" in which designers of all skill levels could submit their work.

Now you can shop from the 100 winning pieces for your own home by browsing online or in West Elm stores, with commissions going straight to the artists.

Plus, for those who just can't get enough: 400 more entries from the contest are available on Minted, too.

Rachel Kashdan

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SPORTS

No new contract

Bradford to play out deal

According to the source, Eagles quarterback Sam Bradford will elect to play out his final year of his contract and attempt to earn a much longer, more expensive deal after the 2015 season. Bradford is owed $12.9 million this year on the final year of his six-year rookie deal.

Phenom Mo'ne, legend King share special bond

Tennis. Two local stars prove that "Girl Power" can stretch generations.

Mo'ne Davis had an incredible viewing partner at the most recent Freedoms match. / GETTY IMAGES

The Mo'ne Davis world tour of sports continued this week, as the local Little League sensation came home after accepting the ESPY for "breakthrough athlete" in Los Angeles this past weekend.

Prior to the Philadelphia Freedoms' World Team Tennis match, the team's owner, Billy Jean King, said she admired Davis for her sensational performance during last year's World Series.

"You're a woman of few words, if I do say so, but your actions speak very loud," King said to the phenom.

The two role models sat next to each other on the bench and made small talk during a Monday night victory for the tennis squad at Villanova University. It was an iconic moment to take in, with the two representing two generations of dominance for females.

"It's very important that people like Mo'ne do well," King said, "to show that girls and boys should be in sports and have passions and follow their dreams."

King, in a completely different era, competed in a "male dominant" sport just as Davis did. The pair was a welcome sight on the sidelines during a match, in a league King invented.

King won six Wimbledon singles championships and four U.S. Open titles, but her most significant moment in her career was in 1973 when she took down Bobby Riggs in the "Battle of the Sexes."

A former Freedoms player herself, King co-founded WTT, creating the unique gender-equity team concept. As one of the 20th century's most respected and influential people, she has long been a champion for social justice and equality.

The Mylan World Team Tennis league consists of 14-game seasons stretching from July 12 to July 29.

Wimbledon champion Serena Williams was slated to play for Washington Monday but withdrew due to an elbow injury. Past players have included legends to the game such as John McEnroe, Pete Sampras and Maria Sharapova.

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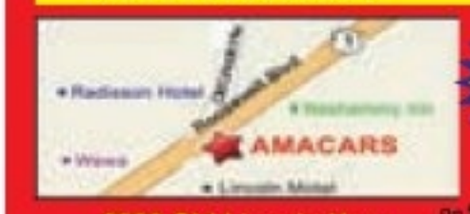

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Local soccer sensation Pfeffer is coming of age with Union

MLS. Once a child prodigy, Zach Pfeffer is starting to realize his dreams on the soccer pitch.

Zach Pfeffer is barely 20 years old and has a bright soccer future ahead. / GETTY IMAGES

Sorry, Katy Perry, Zach Pfeffer's no longer living a "Teenage Dream."

Now a five-year pro at the ripe old age of 20, the kid from Upper Dublin, who did most of his schoolwork at Upper Dublin High online and is still taking online classes at Penn State, has finally solidified himself at as an MLS midfielder in the Union's lineup.

While the results have been mixed, with a pair of goals including a game winner — to go with a costly red card that landed him a two-game suspension as well as a handball inside the box that led to a penalty kick goal — Pfeffer's clearly demonstrated he should be around for while.

"I still think this is the beginning for me," said the 5-foot-8, 150 pound Pfeffer, who in 2010 at age 15 became the fourth youngest player to sign an MLS contract.

Over the next few years he made only sporadic appearances for the team while attending the Union's training Academy.

But this season he's started eight of the 18 games he's played.

"I'm getting comfortable now," said Pfeffer, whose fraternal twin brother, Jared, attends the University of Indiana, "but I'll even more comfortable as I play more games and am able to express myself even more."

Union manager Jim Curtin has already seen enough to believe Pfeffer has a bright future.

"He can be a goal-scoring midfielder," said Curtin, whose 6-11-4 club is coming off a 2-1 loss Saturday in Toronto, keeping them just off the fringe of a potential playoff spot. "They're very hard to find. He has the potential and ability to be a guy getting eight goals a year and double-digit assists. But he's not a finished product yet."

Pfeffer knows it, just as he knows the Union will need to string together a bunch of solid performances if they're to climb into one of those coveted playoff spots.

Quoted

"I'm a skillful, technical, creative, attacking player. I still want to show more of that flair, that creativity as I continue to play."

Pfeffer, on his strengths on the soccer field

"A lot of games we show everyone we can play in 25 minute spurts," said Pfeffer, who shares an apartment in Manayunk with teammate Eric Bird. "Now the goal is do that the entire 90 minutes. We have some good, talented players. Now we have to get that killer instinct."

Excluding Tuesday's U.S. Open Cup semifinal match at the Red Bulls, the Union have just 12 games remaining, enough time to make up ground but with little margin for error. For Pfeffer, though, the end of the MLS season may not be the end of his year.

He's currently on the U.S. 23 and under team, trying to earn a spot on the club that will head to Rio next summer for the Olympics.

"The qualifying is in October," said Pfeffer, whose travel itinerary has already spanned much of the globe, including spending a year on loan to a team in Hoffenheim, Germany. "They'll pick the team a couple of weeks before and have some camps leading up to it. I'm probably a little behind because I'm in the younger stage and have just been to one camp so far. But the Union is my first priority. If things go well here the rest should take care of itself."

So much already has for Pfeffer, who regularly calls or texts his parents, and who realizes just how fortunate he is.

"It's been amazing," said Pfeffer, who has no immediate plans to shave the beard he grew to make him look a bit older. "Soccer has really given me so much. It's opened my eyes to the rest of the world."

Now it may not be long before the rest of the world gets to open its eyes and see what Zach Pfeffer can do.

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MLB Power Rankings | by Ryan Hannable

No. 1

Cardinals (58-34)

The Cardinals may not be playing their best ball of the season, but they still have the best record in MLB and sit four games up on the Pirates in the NL Central. Closer Trevor Rosenthal's 27 saves are the third most in the NL.

No. 2

Royals (55-36)

Winners of seven of their last 10, the Royals are beginning to pull away in the AL Central, as they now lead the Twins by 5.5 games. Lorenzo Cain is batting .319, fifth in the AL, while Kendrys Morales' 65 RBI are the most.

No. 3

Pirates (54-38)

Pittsburgh is beginning to challenge St. Louis in the NL Central as it is just four games back. Gerrit Cole's 13 wins are the most in baseball. They need to improve their 22-22 road mark if they want to compete down the stretch.

No. 4

Dodgers (53-41)

The Dodgers hold the top spot in the NL West with the second-best run-differential (+65) in the National League. Zack Greinke's 1.30 ERA is by far the best in the majors as he continues to dominate on the mound.

No. 5

Angels (51-40)

The Angels are one of the hottest teams in baseball, winning five straight and eight of 10 to now lead the AL West. Mike Trout and Albert Pujols continue to rake at the plate as Pujols leads the AL with 29 HR.

No. 6

Astros (51-43)

The Astros ended the first half on a downward trend and that has carried over into the second half as they have fallen to two games behind the Angels. AL All-Star starter Dallas Keuchel still leads the league with a 2.12 ERA.

No. 7

Nationals (50-41)

Even with their dominating pitching staff, the Nationals can't pull away from the rest of the NL East because of their lack of offense. Bryce Harper is the only one hitting, as he's batting .334 with 27 homers and 64 RBI.

No. 8

Yankees (50-41)

The Yankees continue to go about their business in the AL East, as they have opened up a four-game lead over the Orioles. With a good trade at deadline, they could separate themselves even further from the pack.

No. 9

Twins (50-42)

The Twins were red-hot before the All-Star break but have cooled off, losing two straight. They are still one of the biggest surprises in baseball, as not many expected them to perform as well as they have.

No. 10

Cubs (49-42)

Currently sitting 8.5 games back in the NL Central, the Cubs need to start making up ground quickly, and it could begin by making some bold moves at the trade deadline. A wild-card spot is well within reach.

No. 11

Giants (49-44)

The Giants have won seven of 10 and now trail the Dodgers by 3.5 games in the NL West. They are getting productive seasons out of Buster Posey and Brandon Crawford, as they are third and fourth in National League WAR.

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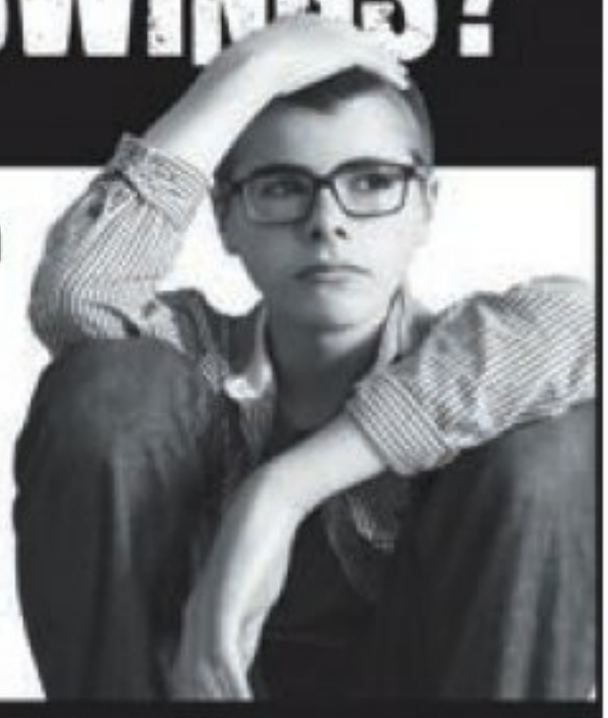

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